The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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VICTORY LOAN

Thru Payroll Savings

WHOLE NO. 1802 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1945 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 35, NO. 44

LABOR, USA

Washington, D. C.—The seventeenth edition of the American Federationist of the Air, broadcast on the "Labor, USA" program over the American Broadcasting Company network, presented the following outstanding feature articles to supplement the news.

Labor Salutes the Navy

By JOHN P. FREY
President of AFL Metal Trades Dept.

American labor is proud of the fighting record of the United States Navy during the war. Once again the Navy proved the nation's first line of defense, both in the Atlantic and the Pacific. But it did a great deal more in this last war. The Navy wrote a new chapter in its glorious history. It engineered and executed the great invasions which made final victory possible.

We of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor are particularly proud of the Navy's war record because our members, for the most part, built its ships and planes and manufactured its guns and ammunition.

It takes more than brilliant admirals and brave captains to win naval victories. It takes more than accurate gunnery and gallant fighting men. In modern warfare, the side which gets the lion's share of credit with the Press set striking force and the best equipment is the side that wins. By their tireless and unstinting efforts in America's many navy yards, shipyards, aircraft plants and ammunition factories, the men and women of American labor made certain that victory would go to our side.

On this Navy Day, therefore, while we hail the spectacular achievements of those who distinguished themselves in battle, let us not overlook the contributions of those who won the battle of production.

The Navy had many secret weapons which proved effective during the war. According to the Japanese, the most potent of these was the Seabees, the Construction Battalions of the Navy. These men, who carved landing fields out of impassable jungles overnight and performed many other miraculous feats, were recruited from the ranks of organized labor to the extent of eighty percent. We salute their performance.

America is now the greatest shipbuilding nation in the world. For our national defense we must maintain that superiority. We must continue to build ever more powerful ships and planes for our Navy and our merchant marine. Only in that way can we hope to keep the freedom of the seas and the safety of our shores from any foreign invasion.

Compulsory Military Training

By LEWIS G. HINES
AFL Legislative Representative

President Truman asked Congress this week to enact immediate legislation providing for one year's compulsory military training for all American young men.

If labor were convinced that such legislation is essential to the nation's defense, we would support it. But we are not so convinced. Therefore, the American Federation of Labor opposes any hasty action on this proposal.

We would like to know, first of all, does America face any immediate threat of war? If so, from what source? If not, why do we need to compel our youth to give up a year of their lives to military training? Never before in its history has America resorted to universal conscription in time of peace. What is the urgency now?

The American people have been led to believe that the United Nations were determined to banish the scourge of war and to keep the peace. Are we ready to admit that this effort is doomed to failure already? We have been assured that the power of Germany and Japan to make war is being totally destroyed. It is highly doubtful that any other country will now be in a position to threaten the peace of the world.

Now is the time to find out so that we can deal with it before we get caught by surprise.

One argument advanced by those who favor universal military training is that it would discourage any nation from making war on us. But European countries have had conscription for many, many years and it has not prevented wars.

Future wars will be fought according to new patterns. The atomic bomb, jet propulsion and other discoveries may make large armies a liability, instead of an asset. The national defense must be planned in terms of the future. We should have a long-range program. We should aim to reach a scientific research organization in the world. These can be adequately manned by voluntary enlistment if service in the national defense is made attractive enough.

America's greatest weapon is its capacity to outproduce any other nation in the world. Plans should be made to protect our production facilities to war needs without delay if a war emergency develops in the future.

If this program is followed, America will remain invincible and safe from foreign aggression, without having to subject the nation's youth to the undemocratic experiment of compulsory, universal military training.

Scope of Labor-Management Parley

By BORIS SHISHKIN
AFL Economist

On Nov. 5 the Labor-Management Conference, convened by President Truman, will meet here in Washington. The leading spokesmen of America's workers and employers will sit around a table, determined to reach a real agreement on how to achieve lasting harmony in industrial relations. What is the job placed before them? Are they to invent a magic formula for solving all industrial disputes? The answer is flatly—No! The Conference will not try to settle current disputes. Nor will it attempt to resolve all of the many problems of industry's readjustment from war to peace.

Industrial strife is only a symptom of deep-seated ills, which take time, patience and skill to cure. It is the purpose of the Conference to agree on long-range policies designed to eliminate sources of friction and to reduce disagreement. It is also to develop means of dealing fairly and effectively with such disagreements as are bound to arise.

Will the Conference succeed? The only known measure of its success is the goodwill and firm determination of its participants to carry out their task as well and as thoroughly as they can. A good beginning has already been made. The principal spokesman of employers and workers have already made one agreement. They have agreed to agree. They have unanimously adopted a working program and they have unanimously agreed on procedure.

The program covers the problems most often found at the root of industrial strife. The Conference will determine: How much will strife be lessened by wholehearted acceptance by management of collective bargaining? How much can it be lessened by full acceptance of labor of the rights and responsibilities of management? How much dispute can be lessened by the fullest use of the National Labor Relations Board? The Conference will take up the problem of first quarrels: how to prevent disruption in labor-management relations when the first agreements are negotiated? How can grievances and disputes be best handled as a part of day-to-day relations between workers and management? How can the existing conciliation services be strengthened? What additional services may be provided for effective mediation and voluntary submission of differences to impartial arbitration?

It will be a working conference, not a speech-making conference. Soon after it convenes, it will break up into several committees. These will carry on their work until they report agreement. The Executive Committee of the Conference will then integrate the work of the individual committees into one report.

Management and labor bear an equal responsibility for industrial peace. Peace in industrial relations can be achieved by passing a law. It must rest on mutual wisdom and mutual consent of employers and workers. It is the purpose of every American Federation of Labor delegate to the Conference to do his utmost to help achieve industrial peace. The Conference also to devise a long-range program of union-management cooperation which would truly serve the interests of all Americans.

SAY, LISTEN!

For the rest of this year, the AFL presents each Saturday evening at 6:45 P.M., EST, over the nation-wide network of the American Broadcasting Company a radio news-magazine, featuring the latest news at home and abroad and special reports by expert commentators on important labor problems. This program is listed in the radio columns of your newspaper as "Labor-U.S.A." Our own subtitle for the program is "The American Federationist of the Air." Don't miss these bright, newsy broadcasts! Listen every Saturday night!

Green Calls For Thirty-Hour Week As Economic "Must" to Spread Jobs

Chicago—Proposals by big business to lengthen the basic work week to 45-hours instead of granting increases in wage rates were summarily rejected here by AFL President William Green.

Instead, Mr. Green emphasized it would soon become an "economic necessity" to place workers throughout the country on a six-hour and thirty-hour week.

Speaking before the convention of the Building Service Employes International Union, Mr. Green said the work day must be reduced to spread employment "or we will be faced with a serious unemployment problem."

Scientific and technological improvements in industry made it possible for "less and less workers to produce more and more goods," the AFL president added, and the reduced work week was the "only practical method" to distribute work.

He pledged that the AFL would enter the labor-management conference in Washington with every defensible termination to work out a plan to minimize strikes. Mr. Green said that his organization would make a sincere effort to bring about true collective bargaining.

Mr. Green told the 500 delegates that he would lend his support to an organization drive to be launched in the building service union, headed by William F. McKeirnan of Chicago, janitors, maids, bowling alley employes and others. He said those to be organized reached potentially millions in number.

The AFL would do anything possible to let the union bars down for servicemen, Mr. Green assured the union delegates. All that most unions had voted to allow veterans knowing various trades to enter unions without payment of high entrance fees.

The AFL president praised production by union men during the war and said that no single serviceman went without anything he needed because of the action in the European and Pacific theatres.

AFL Council Settles Movie Strike

Cincinnati—At a dramatic meeting, the AFL Executive Council settled the Hollywood movie strike which had dragged on since March.

Terms of the settlement were agreed to by leaders of the international unions involved and the employers, who were represented at the meeting by Eric Johnston, the new movie "czar" and Donald M. Nelson, head of the independent movie producers.

Under the agreement, jurisdictional claims left in dispute by the local unions involved will be submitted for voluntary and final arbitration to a committee named by AFL President Green. This committee is composed of Vice Presidents Knight, Birthright and Doherty.

Text of the agreement, which was hailed as an example of the value of voluntary arbitration, follows:

"1. The Council directs that the Hollywood strike be terminated immediately.

"2. That all employes return to work immediately.

"3. That for a period of 30 days the International Unions affected make every attempt to settle the jurisdictional questions involved in the dispute.

"4. That after the expiration of 30 days a committee of three members of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor shall investigate and determine within 30 days all jurisdictional questions still unsolved.

"5. That all parties concerned, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, International Association of Machinists, United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada, Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the Building Service Employes' International Union, accept as final and binding such decisions and determinations as the Executive Council Committee of three may finally render."

STEELMAN NAMED PRESIDENTIAL AIDE

Washington, D. C.—President Truman named John R. Steelman, former Director of the United States Conciliation Service, to serve him as a special assistant.

While Mr. Steelman's new duties were not specifically announced, it is expected that he will advise the President on labor matters and act as a trouble-shooter in labor-industry disputes.

Since his resignation from the Conciliation Service, Mr. Steelman has engaged in private labor relations and arbitration work. Recently Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach called him in to help in reorganization of the Labor Department.

GREEN ASKS LOCAL HELP FOR ANTI-POLL TAX BILL

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green urged all State Federations of Labor and City Central Bodies to proval upon their Senators to support H.R. 7, the bill outlawing the poll tax. Mr. Green said in his letter:

"The American Federation of Labor is seeking to secure the enactment of this legislation so that the right to vote in many southern states will not be restricted through the imposition of poll tax requirements. This bill is now pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee. You can help us very greatly if the representatives of your unions affiliated with State Federations of Labor and City Central Bodies, as well as the officers of State Federations of Labor and City Central Bodies, will communicate with their respective senators and urge them to support this anti-poll tax legislation.

MOVE TO STRENGTHEN CONCILIATION SERVICE

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach planned a special committee to make recommendations to him on how the Conciliation Service can be most effectively strengthened.

The AFL representative on the committee is Francis P. Fenton, AFL Director of Organization.

The committee will examine the relations, policies and organization of the labor department's work in mediation and voluntary arbitration and will work closely with Edgar L. Warren, newly named Director of the Conciliation Service.

Buy More Victory Bonds

Truman, In Fighting Mood, Hits Congress For Delay

AFL Asks Truman To Back Higher Wage Rates Now

Washington, D. C.—Labor confidently expected President Truman to come out strongly for higher wage rates to protect the purchasing power of the nation's workers and prevent disastrous deflation. At the same time the President was reported firmly insistent on keeping a tight lid on prices, to prevent further inflation.

President William Green headed an AFL delegation which was invited to confer with the President at the White House the day before he delivered his radio address on wage policy to the nation.

Mr. Green and his colleagues told the President industry as a whole can afford to pay substantial increases in wage rates out of profits and huge savings in production costs. He warned the President that the drastic cuts in take-home pay since the end of the war would prove a serious obstacle to postwar recovery unless they were offset by higher wage rates immediately.

Those who accompanied Mr. Green to the White House conference included Vice President Matthew Woll, President Martin Durkin of the Plumbers and Steamfitters, President Charles J. McGowan of the Boilermakers and AFL Economist Boris Shishkin.

Mr. Green elaborated on the AFL's wage policy in an address before a special victory convention of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor. He said:

"Labor demands such action not only in the name of justice, but for the national welfare. Unless purchasing power of the great masses of workers is increased through higher wage rates, America is headed for a postwar depression. Labor will suffer. So will the farmers. They need a market for their products or they will start losing money. The best market in the world is more cash in the pockets of American workers to buy the things they need for themselves and their families."

Equal Pay For Women Urged

Washington, D. C.—Elimination of wage differentials based on sex by any employer of more than eight persons engaged in interstate commerce was advocated by Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach, as "not only a matter of fairness to women but also from the standpoint of preserving wage standards and consumer purchasing power."

"The existence of a group of workers who are employed at uniformly lower wages than are paid to other groups doing the same or comparable work provides destructive competitive practices and depresses the whole wage structure," he told a Senate Education and Labor Subcommittee which opened hearings on the Women's Equal Pay Bill.

Senators Pepper, Democrat of Florida, and Morse, Republican of Oregon, introduced the measure on July 25.

"I see no basis for making a distinction between men and women workers in this connection. If they turn out the same quantity and quality of work, they should receive the same compensation," Secretary Schwellenbach said.

Favorable action on the measure was also urged by Miss Frieda S. Miller, chief of the women's division of the Labor Department.

The AFL has endorsed the objectives of the legislation.

Demands Prompt Action On "Must" Bills Supported By Labor

Washington, D. C.—President Truman revealed the whip over the stubborn backs of congressional leaders in an attempt to break the stalemate on legislation for the postwar security of the nation, but failed to evoke any perceptible response.

The President told Senate and House leaders at a White House conference that he wanted immediate and favorable action on:

1—The unemployment compensation bill, providing a maximum of $25 a week for at least 26 weeks in any one year.

2—The Full Employment bill.

Both measures are stymied in House committees which apparently are on a sit-down strike against the legislation.

Legislative leaders who took part in the conference also told reporters that President Truman has expressed concern over a rider adopted by the House which would return the United States Employment Service to state control within 30 days of final passage. The President warned that such action would handicap rapid reemployment of displaced war workers and returning servicemen.

In making these demands on Congress, President Truman followed the same policies urged by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor at its recent meeting in Cincinnati.

The congressional leaders to whom the President emphatically made known his views included President Pro Tem McKellar and Majority Leader Barkley of the Senate and Speaker Rayburn and Majority Leader McCormack of the House.

They made it clear after the White House conference that the President is in a fighting mood and highly incensed over the failure of Congress to bring labor measures to a vote.

In some quarters it was declared that the legislative impasse has aroused the President to the point where his hitherto amiable relations with the legislative branch of the government may be disrupted. It was reported that the President is planning to veto the bill which includes disintegration of the U. S. Employment Service if the Senate passes it.

Agenda of Labor-Management Conference

Washington, D. C.—The rules and agenda for the Labor-Management Conference, as drafted by a special committee and made public by the White House, follows:

Your preparatory and agenda committees believes that the national labor-management conference will accomplish more constructive results if it confines itself primarily to some of the major causes of industrial strife and the methods of reducing them. This suggested agenda is offered with this principle in mind.

Your committee therefore recommends that the following topics be considered:

1. The extent to which industrial disputes can be minimized by full and genuine acceptance by management of collective bargaining in every instance where workers choose to organize to bargain collectively on questions of wages, hours and working conditions.

2. The extent to which industrial disputes can be minimized by full and genuine acceptance by labor of the rights as well as the duties and responsibilities of management to direct the operation of an enterprise.

3. The extent to which industrial disputes can be minimized by the willingness of management and labor to utilize the machinery of the National Labor Relations Act and any existing State labor relations acts for prompt determination of the collective bargaining agencies.

4. The extent to which industrial disputes can be minimized by recognized and orderly procedure to negotiate first contracts between a union and an employer, and the machinery to which provision should be made for the use of conciliation, if negotiations seem to be breaking down.

5. The extent to which industrial disputes can be minimized by provisions incorporated in collective bargaining agreements, such as:

(a) The procedure to be followed in (1) the adjustment of disputes and grievances during the life of a contract, and (2) the negotiation of a succeeding contract.

(b) The policy that once an agreement has been signed, no strikes or lockouts shall take place while it is in force, but that disputes shall be settled between the parties by other means provided in the contract.

(c) When negotiations between the parties concerning the terms of renewal of a contract have proved deadlocked, provision should be made for the early use of conciliation, mediation, and, where necessary, voluntary arbitration.

(d) Provision for management-labor relations staff personnel to enable grievances to be settled quickly at the level where they occur.

(e) Adherence by both parties to a policy of responsibility for living up to the letter and spirit of the agreement, and effective penalties to enforce and carry it out.

(f) Consideration of action needed by unions to control their members for conduct in violation of an agreement, and action needed by management to control their officials and supervisory force who engage in violation of an agreement.

6. To prevent industrial disputes from taking place, should provision be made for improving and strengthening the conciliation service of the United States Department of Labor, and should there be additional agencies for the operation of this service?

7. What provision should be made for lessening or preventing strikes which come from jurisdictional or other interunion disputes?

In submitting these proposals there is no thought of limiting the subjects or the discussions at the conference. We recognize that such subjects as full employment, wages and hours, and legislation are important to industrial peace. We also recognize there may be a different approach to industrial relations in the field of vital public utilities.

It is recommended that the conference itself determine by what means it wishes to deal with these subjects.

Scope of Representation

1. It is recommended that the conference be composed of 39 members, of whom 18 are to represent the employers and management; 18 to represent labor; and 3 the general public.

2. The representatives of the employers and management are to be selected in equal numbers by the United States Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

3. The 18 representatives of labor are to be selected as follows: 8 by the American Federation of Labor; 8 by the Congress of Industrial Organizations; 1 by the United Mine Workers of America; and 1 representing the Railway Brotherhoods.

4. The 3 public representatives are to consist of an eminent private citizen, selected as chairman, and the Secretaries of Labor and of Commerce, ex-officio. They shall be nonvoting members of the conference.

5. Alternates will be selected equal in number to and in the same manner as the delegates themselves. Each of the 4 major groups, as well as the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Commerce, will also designate an adviser. These alternates and advisers will not have voting power in the conference, but may be called upon to speak at the request of their principals. Alternates shall serve on conference committees with the right to vote. Advisers shall have the right to attend any committee or conference meetings.

6. It is recommended that Judge Walter Parker Stacy be invited to serve as chairman of the conference.

Procedure of Conference

1. It is recommended that invitations to the conference be issued by the President of the United States.

2. It is recommended that the conference be held in the Department of Labor Building. The Departments of Labor and Commerce are to furnish all necessary facilities, personnel and supplies.

3. It is recommended that the opening session be addressed by the President, with subsequent brief addresses by the Secretaries of Labor and Commerce.

4. It is recommended that a nonvoting secretary be designated for the conference, and that Dr. George W. Taylor be named for this office.

5. It is recommended that the following procedure of the conference be established:

(A) An executive committee composed of 8 members and a nonvoting chairman. This committee will coordinate the work of the conference. It will be responsible for the integration of reports of all other committees (except that on ways).

If requested, it will also consider and may report to the conference on any subject on the agenda not otherwise assigned. It may also deal with such other matters of a general nature as may come before it.

(B) A rules committee of 4 members which will submit to the conference for approval the rules and procedure to be followed.

(C) Committees to deal with the following subjects listed on the agenda:

(1) Collective bargaining: This committee will consist of 12 members and will deal with topic Number One and paragraphs (1) and (2) of topic Number Five on the agenda.

(2) Management's right to manage: This committee will consist of 12 members and will deal with topic Number Two on the agenda.

(3) Representation and jurisdictional questions: This committee will consist of 8 members and will deal with topic Number Three and Seven on the agenda.

(4) Conciliation services: This committee will consist of 8 members and will deal with topic Number Six on the agenda.

(5) Initial collective agreements: This committee will consist of 12 members and will deal with paragraph (3) of topic Number Five on the agenda.

(6) Existing collective agreements: This committee will consist of 12 members and will deal with paragraphs (A), (B), (C) and (D) of topic Number Five on the agenda.

Alternates are eligible to serve with delegates on the committees. Alternates serving on committees shall have voting rights.

The conference chairman will also serve as chairman of the executive committee. If he is not available, then the conference secretary will serve as chairman. The chairmanship of the other committees will be rotated between labor and management representatives.

Public members of the conference will have the privilege of attending the meetings of the committees but without vote.

Submission of reports by committees shall require a three-fourths vote of the members.

6. In order to make any recommendation adopted by the conference reflect the overwhelming opinion within both the labor group and the employer group, it is recommended that the assent of at least 15 members of each group be required for the adoption of any such recommendation.

Public Relations

(A) In order that the work of the conference be properly understood by the general public, it is recommended that a policy of fullest publicity consistent with the effective working of the conference be followed and a public relations committee be set up in advance of the conference.

(B) It is recommended that this committee consist of a chairman appointed by the President of the United States, together with representatives named by the United States Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Federation of Labor, and the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

(C) Conference releases are to be submitted to the public relations committee as a whole for approval.

(D) Open sessions of the conference are to be held on the first two days and at such other times as the executive committee and chairman may decide.

(E) A daily press conference is to be held at which the proceedings of the various committees and any conference sessions will be summarized.

It is, of course, understood that these recommendations on procedure can be altered by the conference.